

Message Text

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67

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-02 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 AGR-10 /109 W

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R 161500Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9072

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0195

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, CS

SUBJECT: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 28297 (B) SAN JOSE 4919 (C) SAN JOSE 0049

SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO CALLED IN THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES ON JANUARY 14 TO HAND HIM AN INTERIM RESPONSE TO THE EMBASSY'S DIPLOMATIC NOTE DELIVERED ON JANUARY 2. THE MINISTER SAID THAT A MORE LENGTHY RESPONSE, INCLUDING STATISTICAL ANALYSES, WAS STILL BEING PREPARED. THE COSTA RICAN NOTE MAKES CLEAR THAT COSTA RICA IS DISMAYED BY THE PROSPECT OF A REDUCTION OF ITS MEAT EXPORTS TO 30 PERCENT BELOW CAPACITY AND WISHES TO CONSULT WITH THE USG IN THE HOPE OF FINDING A MORE REASONABLE, SATISFACTORY, AND JUST LEVEL FOR VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS ON MEAT IMPORTS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE COSTA

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RICAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NOTE NO. 74.368 PE ON MEAT EXPORTS:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE U.S.A. AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO NOTE VERBALE NO. 215 OF JANUARY 2, 1975 WHICH COMMUNICATED THE DECISION OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS GOVERNMENT OF THE U.S.A. TO LIMIT IMPORTS OF MEAT DURING THE YEAR 1975, AND ITS DESIRE TO NEGOTIATE NEW VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS RESTRICTIVE OF EXPORTS OF THIS PRODUCT WITH COSTA RICA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, IN ORDER TO REGULATE IMPORTS OF MEAT INTO THE U.S. WITH RESPECT TO THAT MATTER, IT IS DESIRED TO TRANSMIT THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA IN THE FOLLOWING FORM:

A. IT HAS BEEN NOTED THAT LIKE PROPOSITIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE OTHER BEEF PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND TO THE OAS.

B. THE CONTENTS OF THE ABOVE REFERENCED NOTE HAVE CAUSED SINCERE DISMAY SINCE THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA HAS MADE KNOWN THE GRAVE DAMAGES TO THE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY AND PARTICULARLY TO THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY THAT ESTABLISHING THE RESTRICTIONS AT THE LEVELS PROPOSED WOULD CAUSE, AMOUNTING TO A REDUCTION OF 33 PERCENT OF THE EXPORT AVAILABILITY FOR THE U.S. MARKET.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED MEASURES WOULD GRAVELY DISTORT COSTA RICA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, WHICH HAS RECEIVED THE SUPPORT AND FAVOR OF INTERNATIONAL CREDIT SOURCES, IN SOME WAY LINKED TO THE ILLUSTRIOUS GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. THIS SUPPORT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE GRADUAL AND PROGRESSIVE INCREASE IN THE CAPACITY TO PRODUCE BEEF FOR EXPORT IN THIS COUNTRY, ALLOWING COSTA RICA TO COMPLETELY SATISFY COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS. IN THE SAME WAY, COSTA RICA HAS FULFILLED FAULTLESSLY ITS EXPORT OBLIGATIONS IN OTHER BASIC PRODUCTS IN THE U.S. MARKET, AT TIMES TO THE DETRIMENT OF ITS ECONOMIC INTERESTS, SINCE PRICES HAD REACHED HIGHER LEVELS IN OTHER MARKETS THAN WERE BEING PAID BY U.S. IMPORTERS.

C. IN THE HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO FIND JUST, REASONABLE, AND SATISFACTORY FORMULAS, IN ORDER TO AVOID SO MUCH HARM TO THIS COUNTRY, THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA IS DISPOSED TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNITED STATES WHETHER BILATERAL, REGIONAL, MULTILATERAL, OR WHATEVER FORM IS NECESSARY. END QUOTE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, EXPORT CONTROLS, MEATS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANJO00195
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750017-0990
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750146/aaaabohy.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 28297, 75 SAN JOSE 4919, 75 SAN JOSE 0049
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <25 Nov 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, CS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006